~~pral~~ pral reply I am obliged to say no. I hope however it is only a pleasure deferred & that when this abnormal state of things is over we shall have the pleasure of making Mrs Hunter's acquaintance, and of seeing you both here.

Believe me

Sincerely yours

(Sir) David Gill

astronomer DSI

36 Pembroke Road

Kensington.

W

10th October 1878

My dear Sir

I am sure you will understand my position when I have explained it, and feel assured that it is only so very exceptional a state of circumstances which prevents me from accepting your kind invitation for Friday.

1. I have a long and stiff paper for the R A S which it is most important to have ready for the November meeting, and my frequent change of abode and the troubles of house hunting and furnishing have sadly hindered my work upon it.

The Paper gives the results of the observations & means for the work of Opposition, and its immediate object is to form a report for the Govt. Grant Committee, so that I may get a further grant to Complete the work.

2. My wife has just finished a book with an account of the Ascension Expedition. Murray is publishing it, the proof sheets are coming in every day and have all to be finished before the end of the month, because the book must be ready for Murrays Autumn Sale on the 9th Nov. This is my wifes first literary effort, and a good deal of my time is occupied in assisting her.

I have also undertaken to write the Preface, Introduction, and it is still unfinished.

3. In 1875 I planned the first base line of the Survey of Egypt. They are now talking about taking up the Survey in earnest, and Rivers Wilson has applied to me for a report on the subject, which must be ready within eight days. Thus you see every hour is precious to me just now, and I must work morning noon and night till the end of the month — I am declining all invitations, am in fact compelled to do so.

I have written thus at length because I know you will fully understand now that it is

GILL (Sir David, F.R.S., *Astronomer Royal at the Cape of Good Hope,* 1843-1914) A.L.S., 36 Pembroke Road, Kensington, S.W., 10th October 1878, 4 pages 8vo., 17*s* 6*d* LONDON SOTHERAN 52.

'I have a long and stiff paper for the R.A.S. which it is most important to have ready for the November Meeting. The paper is the result of the observations of Mars for the week of opposition, and its immediate object is to form a report for the Govt. Grant Committee.' . . .

(ALFRED C. HADDON), 4 Willow Bank, Kingstown, Co. Dublin, March 15, 1887, to W. B. G
2 pages 8vo., 18*s*

. . . 'It is my intention—if I can possibly manage it—to get a complete series of Turtles' eggs and to work o
embryology as a whole. I should, of course, include the pineal eye along with the cerebral structures.'

5717 **HADEN (Sir Francis Seymour,** *surgeon and etcher, writer on Turner,* 1818-1910) A.L.S